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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/743,178	12/23/2003	Li-Ming Cheng	12,569	7280

7590 10/13/2006

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EXAMINER

JOHNSON, BLAIR M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3634

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary for Applications Under Accelerated Examination	Application No. 10/743,178	Applicant(s) CHENG ET AL.	
	Examiner Blair M. Johnson	Art Unit 3634	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
 Since this application has been granted special status under the accelerated examination program,
**NO extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be permitted and a SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR
 REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE:**

ONE MONTH OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER,
 FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION -- if this is a non-final action or a *Quayle* action.
 (Examiner: For **FINAL** actions, please use PTOL-326.)

The objective of the accelerated examination program is to complete the examination of an application within twelve months from the filing date of the application. Any reply must be filed electronically via EFS-Web so that the papers will be expeditiously processed and considered. If the reply is not filed electronically via EFS-Web, the final disposition of the application may occur later than twelve months from the filing of the application.

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2006.
 2) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 3) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-11 and 13-19 is/are pending in the application.
 3a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-11 and 13-19 is/are objected to.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 8) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 9) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 10) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 11) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
|--|--|

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1,2,4-11 and 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gertz on in view of Kuhar '100.

Gertz on discloses an upper longitudinally extending, straight channel 10 and a lower member, either the lowest slat or a well known bottom rail, suspended by primary lines 33 and secondary line 17, four pulleys 34,35, over which the cords traverse, as well as numerous guides, unnumbered, that guide the cords. The location of the connection between lines 33 and line 17, as well as the movement of the connection over pulleys, is clearly an obvious design modification based on headrail size, blind length, number of pulleys, etc. What is not shown is the dual rotors and spring retraction system in a receptacle in the channel. However, such is well known in the art, as illustrated by Kuhar. It would have been obvious to modify Gertz on by replacing the hanging portion of the manual, exposed, pull cord end 17 with the retraction means taught by Kuhar so as to create a balanced system as well as to remove the danger inherent in the hanging cord 17. The location of the dual rotor member would be at the cord lock 13,14,16, etc. As seen in Fig.2, the cord lock only accommodates one cord, 17. This indicates that the connection does not reach the cord lock and consequently would not reach the dual rotor member taught by Kuhar. While the Kuhar lines are angled as they approach the rotor 30, such is the result of openings 49,50, meant to control line movement. It would have been obvious to remove such openings if such control were not required, whereby the lines remain linear.

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Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As stated above, the location of the connection would have been an obvious design choice. The dual rotary members taught by Kuhar would have logically been located in place of the cord lock 13,14,16, etc., which, as shown in Fig. 2, only accommodates one cord, 17. Consequently, the connection would not traverse this rotary member. Kuhar does teach a receptacle 40. While Kuhar does accommodate two cords, it is noted that Kuhar is cited merely to teach a cord winding spring motor for a blind and that Gertzson teaches two lines being connected to one line, such one line being used to operate the two lines. Providing the spring motor system of Kuhar to Gertzson would replace the draw cord 17 with a spring motor system that winds up one cord. The "angled" line argument has little merit since it has not been disclosed that such is a critical feature. Furthermore, note that while the Kuhar lines are angled as they approach the rotor 30, such is the result of openings 49,50, meant to control line movement. It would have been obvious to remove such openings whereby the lines remain linear. While it is true that cordless operation was not contemplated by Gertzson, Kuhar fills this void, as presented above. Gertzson clearly shows a channel.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

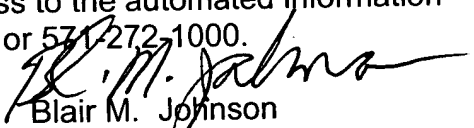
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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blair M. Johnson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6830. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on (571) 272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Blair M. Johnson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3634

BMJ
10/10/06